

Dayton, Oregon
April 30th

Dear Vicki & Jim,

It's the last day of April already! I expect you're well ~~##~~ "into summer" by now, eh? TV said that it would be 80° in New York yesterday even-I can't understand how it gets to be so warm everywhere but in the Northwest so early! Yesterday was a lovely day, though-74° I believe they said in McMinnville-and it stayed warm all evening too-I worked outside in the afternoon in my shorts for awhile-My legs look pretty sickly white and can stand a lot of sun! Today my muscles are rather sore from gouging sod out along one of the flower beds in the backyard (near the apple tree)-I wanted the planting area a little wider because the red peonies always flop forward and cover the primroses! Then I dug some good soil from the other lot where dad had heeled in some of my plants from beneath the walnut tree that had to be removed last fall-So my right elbow feels as if it has had it too! But the results look nice, anyway-There is so much that should be done but dad is so busy out at the farm that he does well to keep the lawn mowed! He has redone the back part of the barn and added a shed roof to the front of it (to use as a peach sorting shed) and yesterday pulled off the south end of the barn~~44~~ It was in bad condition roofwise, at least, deom the oak tree falling on it at the time of the Columbus Day storm-rain soaking in all these years has caused a lot of rotting of the timbers and floor-He will build that section back pretty much as it was, I think-then when it gets painted (someday) it should look pretty good! Did I tell you that he removed the old machine shed that stood at the south side of the barnyard? That really makes an improvement in appearance! The shed part at the back will house machinery nowadays- Also houses the gas tank-Now we have our own "service station" out there-not always too handy for me-he has the key to the pump!! But it is cheaper than buying at retail-

He's a little disappointed in the looks of some of the peach~~s~~ trees-the ends of the branches have some die-back-due to lack of spray at the right time-maybe even last year-but I think there will be plenty of fruit anyway-just so the trees aren't damaged-This will be quite a year for experience, I imagine!

Everyday is special because you are.

Glad you had a nice Easter vacation at the beach-and did you have any luck in locating a house to buy near Dahlgren? That will no doubt take a little time-will that be any nearer Washington for you? I know you like to drive into town quite often -seems as if it may be about the same distance as Fredericksburg, huh? Just off in another direction, perhaps. You'll have to write us more about the area around Dahlgren-

Thanks so much for that pattern. I probably won't be sewing the dress but will have a friend make it-even though I'll be home convalescing later on I doubt that I'll have the patience to sew something nice! I guess I'll call my Dr. this week and make my appointment-which will be right around June 1-I should be fairly well by the time you come on your vacation-I hope.

We saw Ken and Debbi Saturday-She is working now at Farmers Ins. in Tigard-it's a big office and she's in the coding dept. and has a huge thick book to look up codes in-says it takes quite awhile to get proficient at coding- Sat. was her 22nd birthday-I knew it was somewhere in that week but I sent her a card several days early not being sure of it-now I have it in my book and won't forget another year. Ken had spend the week at a cement seminar at Oregon State Univ. about 120 fellas were in attendance and it was given by the engineering department, I think-Said he left Deb at home to recuperate from her cold and get into good humor again-Ha-

I can't remember when I wrote you last and may be repeating things I've said before-Talked to Jerry a week or so ago and he sounded fine-His friend Tom, has already gone to San Diego so he's looking for a smaller place to live-Louise is going to visit Edna the first part of May and both of them are going to New Orleans and sightseeing around the Gulf somewhat-sounds like fun!

Well, I must close-Did Jim have a good week in California? Did he go to San Diego? Bye for now and write soon-we love hearing from you. Take care now.

Much love,

mom & dad